

**REMARKS**

Applicants first would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone discussion on August 31, 2005, at which time this Amendment was discussed.

Claims 1-5, 11-24, 27-30, 32, 34-36, 43 and 44 are pending. Claims 1-5, 11-13, 32, 34 and 36 are rejected. Claims 14-15, 17-24 and 27-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have amended claim 1 and claims depending thereon pursuant to the telephone discussion, to indicate that the gradient structure comprises a transition in the relative concentration of fibers A to fibers B. Support for the Amendment is found at page 9 of Applicants application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added via the Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejected claims are patentable and request that the rejections thereof be withdrawn. With respect to the withdrawn claims, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed as being dependent on a patentable claim. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a notice of allowance to that affect.

Respectfully Submitted,

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